

NEW ORLEANS, Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-CPYRGHT
 TIMES-PICAYUNE

MORNING 194,758
 SUNDAY 313,181

APR 18 1962

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT

Newsman Sees Alliance for Progress Resistance

Says U.S. Pressure for Reform Shocks Wealthy

A Latin American correspondent charged here Tuesday that the wealthy men who make up the ruling classes of Latin America are stubbornly resisting the Alliance for Progress.

"So long as they continue this resistance very little will be done," added Gerard Robichaud, correspondent for the Chicago Daily News.

Robichaud said in view of such an attitude "one may well ask why the ruling classes ever permitted their government to subscribe to the Charter of Punta del Este in the first place?"

"The answer is that few of the governments at Punta del Este really believed the United States would exert much pressure for compliance with the reform measures of the Alliance," he added.

U.S. HAS NOT FORGOTTEN
 Robichaud was a luncheon speaker at Tuesday's session of the first Pan-American Press conference at International House.

He told those attending the seminar that many of the delegates with whom he talked at Punta del Este "felt that by going along with the land reform goals proposed by the United States delegation they would be humoring Uncle Sam."

"They thought they would promptly forget about the entire matter," the speaker added, "It has since come as a real shock to many governments and to the ruling classes as a whole that Uncle Sam has not forgotten."

Robichaud said he believes the resentment toward the Alliance of Progress would melt away if policymakers in Washington were to make it clear that the private sector of the Latin American economy must and will play a major role in the development projects of the Alliance.

PROVISIONS OF CHARTER

He said he does not believe it would be appeasing Latin America's ruling classes to give

them some assurance that the Alliance isn't an instrument to build up already strongly centralized government at the expense of the private sector of the economy.

"To Latin America's men of wealth the prospect of centralized governments, buttressed by millions of U. S. dollars, is almost as frightening as communism itself," Robichaud added.

The speaker reminded his listeners that the Charter of Punta del Este makes it clear that people with money, who head the private sector, should pay more taxes; that, when necessary, they should be willing to give up their vast land holdings to help the cause of agrarian reform; that they should invest more of their money into creating more industries.

"But the charter makes little or no effort to assure this private sector that it will derive any material benefits from the billions of dollars to be spent in building schools, low-cost housing, roads, dams and general institutions," Robichaud added.

"Businessmen of Latin America say with considerable justice that private construction firms can build public housing projects at far less cost than any local governments. They say the governments to carry out such projects only invites waste, resulting in inefficiency, mismanagement, nepotism and, inevitably, graft."

MONEY MISUSE FEARED

The speaker said one Latin American businessman told him that he wouldn't mind paying more taxes for building schools, roads and housing if he could feel sure the money wasn't being to line some corrupt politician's pocket.

The speaker said the Latin American masses "want what we have" and that "our big task is to make them realize that in order to have it they must achieve it in the manner

we did, not in the Communist way."

Robichaud said to the average Latin American peasant, democracy is something which has kept him poor, hungry, illiterate and suppressed.

"It does no good to tell these unfortunate peasants that communism brings enslavement," he added. "He has been living too close to enslavement. A family of seven or eight, living in a cramped, one-room hut on a huge hacienda, will derive no comfort from talk of free enterprise. The struggle for men's minds will be won by deeds, not words. And deeds means land for the landless, food for the hungry, decent housing for the ill-housed."

LARGE ESTATES INVADIED

The speaker charged that in Peru, in Ecuador, in certain areas of Brazil and even in tightly-held Nicaragua, landless peasants are trying to take the land into their own hands and there have been numerous invasions of large estates.

While such tactics may be Communist-inspired, he added, such forcible attempts to seize land could not be started unless the peasants were desperate for land of their own.

The speaker charged that (1) Bolivia's social revolution is cracking at the seams; (2) a multiplicity of political parties in Chile has made it possible theoretically for a Communist-led popular front to ride to presidential power; (3) that a somewhat similar situation in Argentina made possible the recent Peronista victory; (4) that in Haiti, Duvalier rules by terror; (5) that in Paraguay, Stroessner rules at pistol point; (6) that Brazil has been described as the only operating anarchy in the world; (7) that Venezuela is wrecked by the violence of its Communists.

LIVELY DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday's sessions of the seminar, which is attracting top editors from all sections of the Western Hemisphere, led to lively

discussions and spirited question-and-answer periods.

Other Speakers Present Views

During talks and discussions other seminar speakers said:

1. A great many Latin Americans still cling to the mouldy belief that the Yankees' only goal in life is to exploit them.

2. The comic book is being used as a method of improving the United States image in Latin America.

3. The North American press tends to play up the sensational in Latin America.

4. A recent poll of North American newspaper readers showed that more than 50 per cent believe Latin America is the most vital area to the defense of the United States.

The tendency of the North American press to sensationalize Latin American news was bemoaned by Enrique Santos, of El Tiempo, Bogota, Colombia.

Santos said if a distinguished visitor from the United States is treated with discourtesy in Latin America, there is endless sensational comment in the North American press. But when similar visitors are given a warm welcome, the fact is dismissed casually, he added.

Fernando Garza, editor of El Universal, Mexico City, echoed Santos' views. Garza charged that "the majority of North American publications do not publish information about Latin America other than that having a strong content of sensationalism and morbidity."

"It is my opinion that in this explosive era, irresponsible, dangerous sensationalism should be eliminated from publications."